Of the above, 79 men have put in a service of 2 years and less, 80 men over 2 years and up to 3 years, 58 over 3 years and up to 4 years, 3 over 4 years and up to 5 years, 4 over 5 years and up to 6 years and 1 over 6 years.

The services of 95 men were dispensed with owing to slackness of work and the others for irregular attendance, incompetency and misconduct.

(j) There is no rule laying down that the Superintendent should arrange for a good supply of stock work for the slack season.

Transfer of pieceworkers of the High Court section in the Government Press to the Current section.

* 443 Q.—Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the pieceworkers of the High Court section of the Press are transferred to the Current sections and made permanent as vacancies occur;

(b) if so, how many were so transferred during the years 1926, 1927 and 1928 and why;

(c) how many were made permanent during these years and what is their respective temporary service in the Current sections;

(d) whether the sanction of permanent strength of the piecework establishment was fixed at 325 in 1910 when there were 451 pieceworkers only; and

(e) whether there was a proposal to increase the number in the year 1919 and to put some more into the fixed establishment?

A.—(a) No.

(b) & (c) The questions do not arise.

(d) The strength of the permanent piecework establishment was fixed at 325 in 1910, when the total number employed was 577.

(e) Yes.

Distribution of work among pieceworkers in the Government Press.

* 444 Q.—Mr. C. Venkatarangam Nayudu: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Superintendent, Government Press, has issued orders to the effect that the permanent pieceworkers should be provided with work before the temporary pieceworkers and whether the latter therefore hang on the mercy of the foreman for work; if so under whose authority this system is in vogue, how long and why;

(b) whether the pieceworkers in their memorials to the Government, dated 11th December 1919, asked for a turn distribution book being maintained in each composing section to ensure fair distribution of work and whether their request was complied with;

(c) whether the Superintendent, Mr. Gilbert, had reported that every precaution was being taken to avoid partiality in the distribution of work and that it was always open to the pieceworkers to report any unfair distribution;

(*d*) whether complaints have been made to Government that some men are given more work and some less by the foremen of the composing section; and

(*e*) if so, what action Government propose to take?

A.—(*a*) The Superintendent, Government Press, has issued instructions that, when work is slack, work should first be given to permanent pieceworkers. There is no reason to suppose that those instructions have produced the results suggested in the question.

(*b*) & (*c*) Yes.

(*d*) No.

(*e*) The question does not arise.

Alleged re-entertainment of Annathurai Pathar in the Government Press.

*445 *Q.*—Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether one Annathurai Pathar who was a foreman of the type-foundry department on Rs. 40 was dismissed by Mr. T. Fisher, the former Superintendent;

(*b*) whether he was taken by Mr. Gilbert, the present Superintendent, on Rs. 55 in the day extra establishment as foreman of the same type-foundry department, keeping the permanent post of foreman of the department on Rs. 40 vacant;

(*c*) whether the sanction of Government was obtained to appoint the dismissed employee of fifty years old and make him permanent;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that the day extra post of Rs. 55 was an unnecessary additional post graded as Rs. 60—4—100 and made permanent; if so, why sanction was accorded to it; and

(*e*) whether the said Annathurai Pathar continued as foreman on Rs. 60—4—100 for five or six years and then retired; and if so, what was the pension or gratuity granted to him?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Mr. Annadurai Pathar was re-employed as foreman, type-foundry department, in the day extra establishment on Rs. 2-3-10 per day with effect from 26th January 1920, and was subsequently confirmed on Rs. 55 per mensem plus Rs. 16½ temporary allowance from 1st August 1921. A post of foreman was kept permanently vacant from 1st April 1920 to 1st March 1922.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) No.

(*e*) He was promoted to the grade of Rs. 60—4—100 from 1st March 1922 and he retired from service on 23rd October 1925. He was granted a gratuity of Rs. 440.

Rao Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapathi Mudaliyar:—"May I know, Sir, whether Government have approved of the action of Mr. Gilbert in having made the appointment of a dismissed man?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur:—"Sir, with regard to that I have called for a report."